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August 27, 1985

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Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Madison County Landfill-
Twin Bridges

Board of County Commissioners, Madison Co., P.O. Box 278 Virginia City
Mr. Harold McGregor, Chairman, Madison County Solid Waste Board, P.O.
Box 278, Virginia City, MT
Mr. Jon A. Dilliard, R.S., Co. Sanitarian, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City
Town of Twin Bridges, P. O. Box 307, Twin Bridges, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT
Darlene Staffeldt, Supervisor, Documents, State Library, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Madison
County Landfill- Twin Bridges, MT.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within
the allotted time.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. LEITER
Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JEL:vc
Encls.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Project or Application Madison County Landfill - Twin Bridges

Description of Project Madison County has submitted an application for a solid waste management system license for operation of a sanitary landfill at the old Twin Bridges solid waste site located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, Township 3S, Range 16W. This site is adjacent to and includes the Twin Bridges container site, about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles east of Twin Bridges. The proposal includes provisions for the disposal of locally generated solid waste and contents of 40 yard containers from the western part of Madison County.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment			X			X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Madison County Sanitarian

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not Necessary

PER Prepared by: _____

Date: August 28, 1985

DHES/ESD-2

James E. Leiter
JAMES E. LEITER

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- 1) Terrestrial and aquatic life & habitats - Operation of a sanitary landfill at the site will cause a minor impact on small mammal and insect life in the immediate area of the facility, displacing some natural inhabitants of the area and creating conditions favorable to other species.
- 2) Water quality, quantity and distribution - Due to the relatively permeable soils at the proposed landfill, a groundwater monitoring system will be required to monitor potential impact of the site on local groundwater resources. Due to low precipitation in Montana, the landfill is not expected to impact groundwater at all, however, there is some potential impact. To help avoid contamination possibilities, the site will not be approved for liquid and semi-liquid waste materials.
- 3) Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture - The landfilling of solid waste materials causes a change in the soil quality, stability and moisture holding capabilities of natural soils. Some subsidence of the finished area can be expected as the buried solid waste is biologically decomposed.
- #4) Vegetation cover, quantity and quality - Operation of the fill will cause the temporary removal of vegetative cover over much of the 16 acre area proposed for licensure. If proper reclamation procedures are instituted, suitable vegetation cover can be reestablished and negate any long term impact from the landfill.
- #5) Aesthetics - Since the site is currently in use as a solid waste container site and has been used for some time as a landfill disposal site, operation of a landfill will not dramatically change the aesthetics of the immediate area. Solid waste disposal invariably has an affect on aesthetics, however, varying directly with supervision and maintenance of the facility.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

- #8) Quantity and distribution of employment - The operation of the landfill will be contracted out, creating a limited number of employment positions in the Twin Bridges area.
- #10) Demands for government services - The landfill operation will be regulated by the Madison County Solid Waste Board, the Madison County Sanitarian, and the Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau, Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. Periodic inspections will be necessary to insure compliance with applicable leases, contracts and regulatory requirements.
- #12) Demands for energy - There will be a minor increase on the demand for energy as fossil fuels are consumed for equipment operation. The increase



in consumption should be offset, however, by a decrease in the quantity of fuel required by the container truck.

#14) Transportation Networks and Traffic Flows - By changing the site from a container site to a landfill/container combination a minor increase in traffic can be expected in the vicinity of the landfill.



